

Torrance, California  
August 16, 1955

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California, on August 16, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:  
COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Donald Hitchcock led the salute to our flag.

Councilman Schwab opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the regular meeting held August 9, 1955, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from Mr. Boskovich requesting that his property, located in Tract 9, be excluded from the parking Assessment District now proposed.

Councilman Drale moved that the property of both Mr. Boskovich and Mr. Cassidy be removed from the Assessment District. Councilman Benstead seconded the motion.

Mayor Isen objected to the motion, saying that this would be showing partiality.

Councilman Benstead went on record as being against taking residential property for parking purposes.

Councilman Drale said that he has been advised that some property in the area has been excluded, therefore, he believed no residential property should be included.

Mayor Isen said that no partiality was to have been shown, and that if the policy of excluding residences was to be followed there was no point in condemnation proceedings. He moved that the motion be deferred until discussion at the Pre-Council meeting next Tuesday. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab received the following tie vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Schwab and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Stevens to give any information he had on the matter, and Mr. Stevens said the Committee had selected a number of lots, but that he did not know why they had chosen these particular ones.

Mayor Isen reported that he had walked out with the Committee, and that their idea had been to get a strip all along Cravens where cars could be parked, and that he did not know why any property should be excluded.

Councilman Schwab said that the reason he voted "Yes" on tabling the motion was that he felt the action was rather hasty and that the matter should have more thorough consideration.

Mayor Isen called for a roll call vote on Councilman Drale's motion to exclude the property owned by Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Boskovich located behind the Prudential building and the General Electric store at Marcelina and Cravens Avenue, and it received the following tie vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Schwab and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount.

Discussion of the entire matter was then postponed to the Pre-Council meeting Tuesday, August 23, at which time it is to be presented to the Council with more information.

Letter dated August 4, 1955, from Mrs. Lois E. Skaggs regarding Drywell and Pumping Installation for drainage of Lower Hollywood Riviera.

City Manager Stevens said the City has bought a lot and plans to make a sump of it. In an emergency the area will be drained into the sump.

Councilman Drale said that he thought the Engineering Department should be brought up to date on this. At one time there had been some talk of putting a sanitary sewer line parallel to the present sewer to drain the area.

Councilman Benstead asked where such a sewer would drain, and was told that it would empty into the ocean.

It was agreed that City Manager Stevens would discuss this with the Engineering Department and answer Mrs. Skaggs's letter, with a copy of his reply going to the Engineering Department and to each Councilman.

Letter from the Civil Service Board, dated August 8, 1955, recommending approval of the request of William Leetz for two weeks leave of absence without pay in addition to his regular vacation leave.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Civil Service Board. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

#### Recommendations of City Manager:

##### PERSONNEL:

(a) Jack Stassin was employed as Park Maintenance Man, effective August 1, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from eligible list.)

(b) Howard W. Lane and Joe C. Lopez were promoted from Laborer to Water Serviceman, effective August 1, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from eligible list.)

c. Larry R. Fox, William L. Johns and Robert S. O'Cain, were promoted from Water Serviceman to Senior Water Serviceman, effective August 1, 1955, at the second salary step. (Selected from eligible list.)

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations (a) through (c) under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

##### APPROPRIATIONS:

For the purchase of two Remington electric typewriters for use in the Building and Administrative Departments, the sum of approximately \$850 plus sales tax.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

##### COMMUNICATIONS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION:

1. Letter from Torrance Recreation Commission dated August 12, with reference to protest and suggestions offered by Richard H. Holmes regarding Seaside sump. The Commission suggested that the dust control measures in the sump area would have to be answered by the Engineering Department.

There being no objections, Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed and stated that the Council would hear from the Recreation Commission later.

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2. Letter, dated August 12, 1955, from the Torrance Recreation Commission, recommending that only one park site be located in Tract 20473, and further suggesting that instead of taking two parks in Tract 20473, the City use the money for a location in another area that has few or no parks.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

City Manager Stevens agreed to notify interested parties of the action taken.

#### ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Final Tract Map No. 21246: Located northerly of 168th Street, southerly of Redondo Beach Boulevard and approximately 500 feet westerly of Yukon Avenue, containing 40 lots and presented by Dartmouth Homes, Inc. The letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission and Engineering Department recommended approval with the special condition that a notarized letter is received from Grand Construction Company as to which method they are going to use in the installation of the sewers and that a bond be posted for same. Attached to the transmittal letter was a communication from Dartmouth Homes, Inc., dated July 26, 1955, stating that they would sewer this tract easterly along 168th Street and connect to the existing sewer at 168th Street and Patronella Avenue; and that the necessary improvement bond would be posted.

Councilman Benstead asked if the bond had been posted and City Manager Stevens replied that it would be before the final map was signed.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation for approval of Final Tract Map No. 21246. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

2. Release of Bond -- Tract No. 17856: Communication from City Engineer Bishop, recommending release of bond for improvements on curbs, gutters and sidewalks in Tract No. 17856, and stating that trees have been planted in parkways and approved by Mr. Casper Clemmer, Park Foreman.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendation for release of the bond. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

3. Release of Sewer Bond -- Tract No. 18594: Communication from City Engineer Bishop, recommending release of Bond No. 235395, covering sanitary sewer installation in Tract No. 18594, subdivided by Mr. Harry Kissel.

Councilman Benstead asked if the streets were put back in order and City Engineer Bishop explained that this bond only covered the sewers, which were in order and working; that he is still holding the street bond.

Councilman Schwab moved the Council concur with the recommendation for release of the subject bond. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

4. Bond Issue Storm Drain Project No. 242: Communication from City Engineer Bishop, submitting resolution authorizing the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to proceed with the construction of this storm drain and other permission as required.

Councilman Drale asked the location of this storm drain and City Engineer Bishop replied that there were two locations: (1) On Arlington Avenue from Redondo Beach Boulevard to the Dominguez Channel. (2) On Glenburn Avenue flowing north from several hundred feet south of 174th Street at the Edison right of way straight up Glenburn Avenue into the Channel.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2804

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT STORM DRAIN PROJECT NO. 242, AUTHORIZING SAID DISTRICT TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AS DESCRIBED THEREIN, AND GRANTING PERMISSION TO SAID DISTRICT TO OCCUPY AND USE PUBLIC STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN SAID INSTALLATIONS UPON THEIR COMPLETION.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2804. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

5. Letter dated August 12 from City Engineer Bishop submitting a resolution authorizing acceptance of a Sewer Easement in Tract 19736 from Donald C. Davis and Ehtelmae Davis.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2805

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM DONALD C. DAVIS AND ETHELMAE DAVIS.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of the resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

6. Communication from City Engineer Bishop dated August 11, 1955, submitting resolutions authorizing acceptance of sewer easements to serve Tracts No. 21645, No. 20445, and No. 18380.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2806

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM VICTOR A. HOLM AND DELORES JEAN HOLM.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2807. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount arrived at 6:00 P. M.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2807

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF  
OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED  
FROM WILLIAM VERBURG AND CLARA B. VERBURG.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously, by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2807. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2808

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF  
OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED  
FROM ANGEL J. ROMO AND PAULINE E. ROMO.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2808. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Re-approval of Final Tract Map, Tract No. 21645: Communication from City Engineer Bishop asking for Re-approval of Final Tract Map No. 21645.

Councilman Benstead asked whether any trees were in any way affected by this map. City Manager Stevens explained that this was simply re-approval of the final tract map, which had been approved on May 24, 1955. The builder had been required to get more signatures on the title sheet, so re-approval was necessary.

The Council checked the Tract Map, a copy of which was furnished by Mr. Powell.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. Revised Tentative Tract Map No. 21676: Located easterly of Anza Avenue, northerly of Sepulveda and southerly of Torrance Boulevard, containing 750 lots and subdivided by Don Wilson - Milton Kauffman Construction Company. The transmittal letter recommended approval of this tract, subject to the special conditions set forth in the minutes of the Planning Commission dated August 10, 1955.

The Council members reviewed the map and Councilman Benstead asked if the subdivider would be willing to box the trees which would have to be removed and deliver them, at their expense, to the new Civic Center site.

Mr. Kauffman was present and stated that he would agree to do this.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur with the recommendation for approval, providing the condition regarding removal of trees to the Civic Center site is included. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.



8. Tentative Tract Map No. 22022: This is a portion of Tract No. 15569 in the Seaside Heights area on the north side of Bindewald Road. The letter of transmittal recommended approval with the special conditions that the slope be planted and that a lined, engineered interceptor ditch be placed halfway down the slope. The tract contains 12 lots and is subdivided by Lynne Gardens.

Discussion was held and Councilman Drale asked why the street shown did not go through to Bindewald Road. It was explained that the grade is very steep and that the map is based on one passed several years ago. Councilman Drale asked what the dotted lines on the map meant and Planning Director Powell explained that the tract originally contained 16 lots, but that the size of the lots had been increased to the extent that there were only 12 now, which in this case is good planning.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with the recommendation for approval. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

9. Tentative Tract Map No. 22086: Located easterly of Arlington Avenue and northerly of the Dominguez Channel, containing 32 lots and subdivided by R. W. Watt Construction Company. The letter of transmittal recommended approval with certain special conditions as set forth.

Discussion was held on the height to which the lots are to be filled, in order to insure drainage of the tract, and City Engineer Bishop recommended a height of 2 feet above the crown of Arlington Avenue, which would be 38 feet.

Mr. Barkley, Engineer for the Subdivider, was present and stated that 38 feet is against the recommendation of the Flood Control and for this reason he would object to Mr. Bishop's ruling.

It was decided that this map should be referred to City Engineer Bishop for further study and report.

10. Final Tract Map No. 20445: Located easterly of Arlington Avenue and southerly of the Dominguez Channel, containing 36 lots and subdivided by the Northern Properties Company.

Councilman Drale said the discussion held on the previous map (No. 22086) applied also to this map and suggested that City Engineer Bishop write a letter to the Council, stating his recommendations on both tracts.

Mayor Isen asked that Mr. Bishop restore these two maps to the agenda at the proper time.

11. Letter of August 5, 1955, from the Planning Commission listing the following matters for consideration:

(a) Vacation of a portion of Reese Road - Tract 15569: Mr. Beasley moved, at the July 20, 1955, meeting of the Planning Commission that a portion of Reese Road in Tract 15569 be recommended to the City Council for approval. Motion, seconded by Mr. Wing, carried unanimously by roll call vote of the Planning Commission.

(b) W. A. Garrabrant, 305 Camino de las Colinas: Requesting waiver of front yard setback on curve to 13'. Mr. Wing moved the request be recommended to the City Council for approval. Motion, seconded by Mr. Beasley, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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(c) Watt Construction Company: Requesting waiver of 20' front yard set-back on Lots 9 and 13 in Tract 21588. Mr. Beasley moved that the request of Watt Construction Company for waiver on front yard set-backs on Lots 9 and 13 be recommended to the City Council for approval since such lots are on a 64' curve and will not obstruct the view of the adjacent houses. Motion, seconded by Mr. Whitcomb, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present at the Planning Commission meeting.

(d) Suggested Lot Size for M-1 Zoning: The Torrance Industries Tax Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in requesting the minimum lot size for residential development in an M-1 Zone be 10,000 square feet. President Smith explained this is the only method we have to prevent subdividers from taking M-1 land and subdividing it.

There was no objection to any of the items, and Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission, items (a) through (d). Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### REPORTS:

1. The Council members were given copies of a report from planning Director Powell on the Use of Signs in Residential and Agricultural Zones for Small Home Businesses.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2809

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN  
COMMUNITY RECREATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1955-56

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2809. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN  
QUITCLAIM DEED TO FRANCES GORDON, ADMINISTRATRIX  
OF THE ESTATE OF SAMUEL J. GORDON, DECEASED.

City Attorney Hall explained that at one time the City got a Quitclaim Deed to a certain parcel of land, on which the "so-called Grantor" never appeared in the chain of title. The deed does appear in the Title Company records, which clouds the title. In Mr. Hall's opinion the City actually has no interest in the property and no value to the City is involved.

Discussion was held on whether or not there is a value to the City involved with this property and Mayor Isen asked Mr. Hall to present the matter at the next Council meeting with such additional information as he may be able to provide.

2. At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Hall gave a report on the draft of an Ordinance entitled:

## ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO.  
713 AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 677 TO  
PROVIDE FOR TYPE AND CARE OF TREES  
LOCATED UPON CITY PROPERTY.

Mr. Hall said that Mr. Clemmer did not like the proposed Ordinance, as he felt that force-grown trees might be used and that, while they might fulfill the requirements of the Ordinance, they would not be as sturdy as other trees.

Mayor Isen suggested that a section be inserted providing that before any existing trees could be removed from proposed tracts, approval should be obtained from the City. Mr. Hall said that we had a complete tree ordinance, and this simply amended it to take care of the age and height requirements. Mayor Isen asked if Mr. Hall would write into the Ordinance the necessary requirements, and Mr. Hall replied that that was a matter of policy.

It was brought out that in new tracts no bond was released until Mr. Clemmer has inspected the trees in the tract and approved them, and Mr. Blount agreed with Mr. Clemmer that this was sufficient.

Councilman Benstead felt that some guarantee of the size of trees planted by subdividers should be written into the Ordinance.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Hall if it could be specified that the trees would be rejected if they did not come up to the age and height specifications of the planting supervisor. Mr. Hall said he could. Mayor Isen asked Mr. Hall to prepare another proposed Ordinance as soon as possible, and Mr. Hall agreed to do so.

ORDINANCE NO. 763

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE  
REGULATION OF OIL WELLS.

Mayor Isen asked if there was any discussion of the Ordinance. Mr. Donald Hitchcock asked to be heard, and said that under Section 1, Paragraph 4, the definition of "derrick" is not inclusive enough. He suggested that the word "drilling" be followed by the words "and producing". There were no objections, and Attorney Hall was instructed to make the addition to the Ordinance.

Mr. Hitchcock took some issue with Section 7, "ninety (90) days", but his understanding of the section was in error, and he withdrew his objection.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 763. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance 763 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 764

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN  
TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO  
ARTICLE IV, ORDINANCE NO. 446.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 764 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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ORDINANCE NO. 765

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, RELATING TO AND REGULATING THE KEEPING AND MAINTAINING OF CERTAIN ICEBOXES, REFRIGERATORS, DEEP FREEZES, LUGGAGE TRUNKS, CHESTS, STORAGE BOXES AND SIMILAR TYPE CONTAINERS WITHIN SAID CITY, AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTS WITH RELATION THERETO.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Urgency Ordinance 765 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 766

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND CREATING AND ESTABLISHING FIRE ZONES AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NOS. 314 AND 688.

City Manager Stevens reported that a correction should be made in Section 2, Paragraph (a), last line reading "Lots 1 to 5 inclusive, Block 17, Torrance Tract." The City Manager said that this property was included in Fire Zone 1, and that the line should be deleted. There were no objections, and the deletion of the line was ordered.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 766 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Land Use Ordinance

City Attorney Hall informed the Council that the Planning Commission will have to hold hearings on the proposed amendments, which this would constitute, and that then the Ordinance would have to come back before the City Council at a formal hearing before it can be adopted.

Councilman Blount moved to refer the Ordinance back to the Planning Commission. Councilman Benstead seconded the motion. There being no objections, the proposed ordinance was referred to the Planning Commission for the necessary public hearings.

Letter from Recreation Commission

Mayor Isen referred to a letter from the Recreation Commission dated August 15, 1955, and signed by Robert M. Almond, Chairman, saying the Commission felt most fortunate to have Mr. Harry B. Van Bellehem directing the City's Recreation Department. Mayor Isen ordered the letter incorporated in the minutes by reference.

Proclamation

Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of August 22-27, 1955, as Public Recreation Week.

## Terms of Airport Commissioners

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Stevens to set up the matter of the length of terms for members of the Commission on the agenda for next week's Council Meeting. Mr. Stevens agreed to sift through the material and present it on August 23.

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that on Tuesday, August 23, the Board of Supervisors are holding a hearing on the question of whether or not to ban the operation of back-yard incinerators. He recommended that the City ask for a postponement of 18 months in this matter.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens reported that the official assessed valuations have been received, the total being approximately \$99,700,000, of which approximately one-half million dollars is contested, the question being whether the property is owned by the companies or the Federal Government. Based on the above valuations and the increase in the Sales and Use Tax to 1%, it is apparent that the City can operate on a General Fund tax of 95¢, a reduction of 5¢ from last year's rate. Other tax rates will be as follows: Library -- \$0.05, Retirement -- \$0.10, 1954 Bond Issues -- \$0.027 and 1955 Bond Issues \$0.057. The total tax rate will be \$1.184, compared to \$1.19 last year. Mr. Stevens advised that if these rates meet with the approval of the Council, the Ordinance could be prepared for the August 23 meeting.

Mr. Stevens further explained that included in the cash carry-over is \$100,000 earmarked for improvement of the Civic Center, which would leave approximately \$228,000 in the Unappropriated Reserve. This will permit the purchase of the four buses in October at \$76,000; we have a fire engine on order for which we owe about \$29,000; the balance would allow for some added equipment such as a packer and sweeper for the Street Department and about \$40,000 for street improvements, as well as a normal reserve.

City Manager Stevens advised that last month, for the first time in a long period, the Municipal Bus Line had operated at a profit. Primarily this was due to the Los Angeles bus strike. The City raised the bus fares on August 1 and found that the revenues had held up very well with very little protest, and it is now felt that the system will be able to operate at a small profit, especially with the cut in operational cost which will be possible when the new buses are put into operation.

Mayor Isen asked how much was necessary to carry all the bond issues and City Manager Stevens replied that it was a combination of the .027¢ for 1954 bonds and .057¢ for 1955 bonds.

Councilman Benstead asked that all members of the Council be furnished copies of the rates and information on taxes and City Clerk Bartlett said copies of the rates would be furnished to all members of the Council within the next two or three days.

Councilman Dralle advised that he had discussed the limited parking in the City Lot at El Prado and Cravens Avenue with members of the Traffic Commission. He said the Commission felt that the lot should be opened Monday through Thursday for free all-day parking and Friday and Saturday for two-hour parking only, and he so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen commented that, in connection with the Sales and Use Tax information, and as a result of the uniform tax that would be in effect everywhere, it would behoove everyone to do as much of their purchasing in Torrance as they possibly can to help get the tax benefits as reported above. In this way, if the Sales and Use Tax

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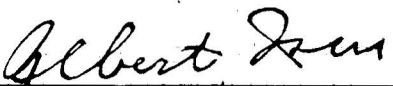
benefits are large enough there can be other tax cuts.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid.  
Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll  
call vote.

At 7:00 P. M. Councilman Drale moved the meeting adjourn.  
Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
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Mayor of the City of Torrance